



10/022,095

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

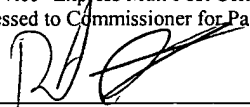
Applicant: VIGNOTTO, et al. Examiner: M. Kyle  
Serial No.: 10/022,095 Group Art Unit: 3676  
Filed: December 17, 2001 Docket No.: 7587.183US01  
Title: SEALING dEVICE OR A ROLLING CONTACT BEARING

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV 495870969 US

Date of Deposit: January 26, 2005

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:   
Name: David Ortiz

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were recently cited in an German Office Action mailed April 26, 2004.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the German Office Action.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):



EP 0 748 968 is an English equivalent of DE 696 04 236, US 4,946,296 is an English equivalent of DE 38 09 904 and US 4,948,277 is an English equivalent of DE 689 03 331.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

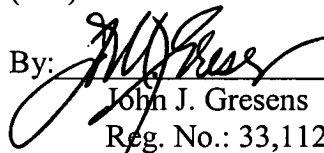
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903  
(612)332.5300

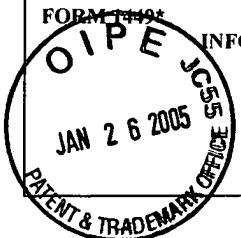
Dated: January 26, 2005

By:

  
John J. Gresens  
Reg. No.: 33,112

JJG/pjk



<b>FORM 1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 7587.183US01	Application Number: 10/022,095
	Applicant: VIGNOTTO, et al.	
	Filing Date: December 17, 2001	Group Art Unit: 3676

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,946,296	August, 1990	Olschewski, et al.			
	4,948,277	August, 1990	Alff			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	38 09 904	October, 1989	Germany				
	689 03 331	December, 1989	Germany				
	696 04 236	June, 1996	Germany				
	0 748 968	September, 1999	EPO				
	0 942 188	September, 1999	EPO				
	0 785 369	June, 2004	EPO				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	